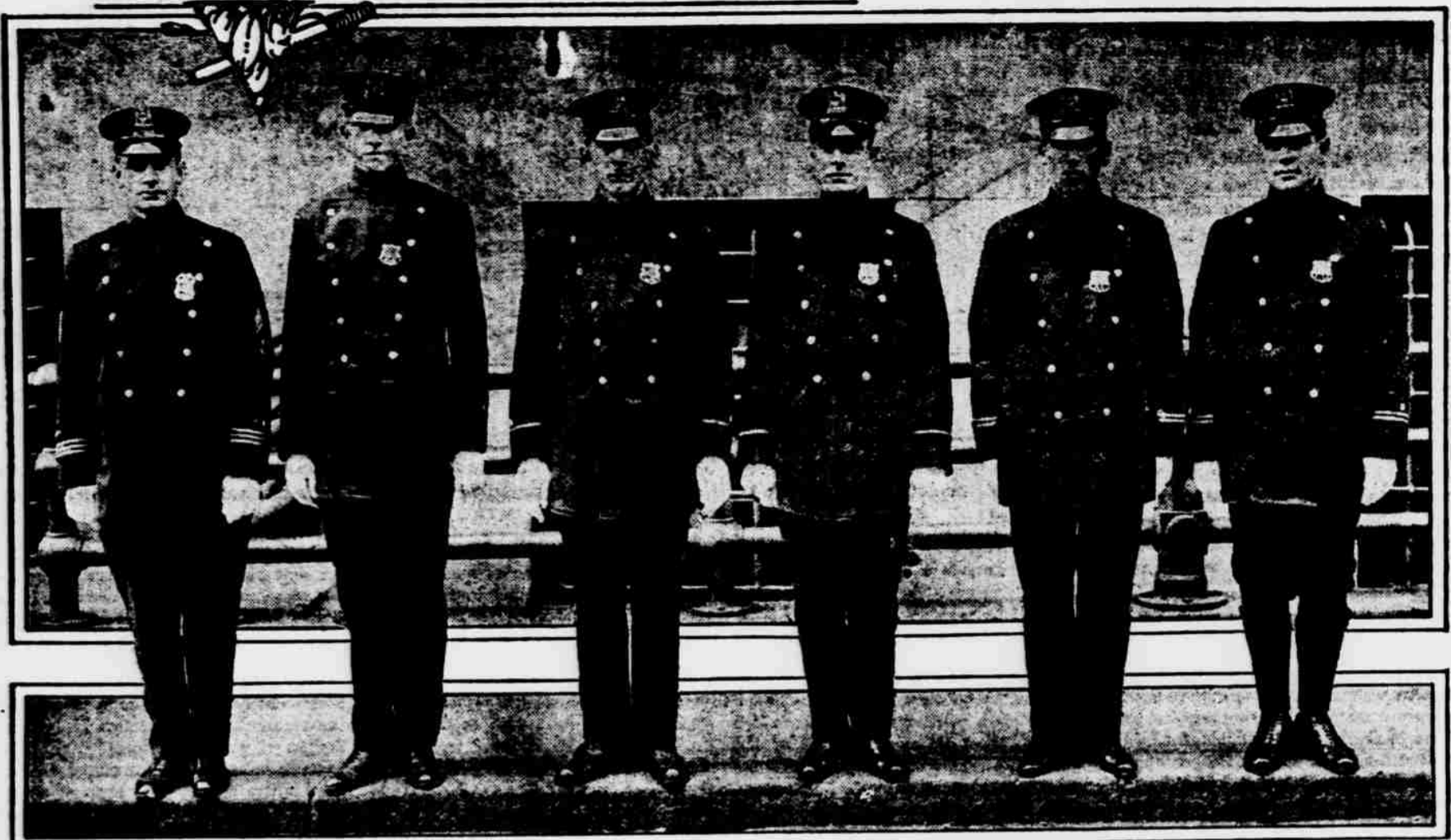


Police Honor Roll Bears Six New Names

Medal Winners Who at the Parade Next Saturday Will Receive Their Rewards for Daring Deeds Performed in the Course of Duty.



Police medal winners. Left to right—Sergeant Joseph T. Weckesser, Patrolmen Charles A. McNally, Edward H. Machel, Henry Mauderer, Patrick Feeley and Charles C. Steinert.

It was planned this year to do something more for the police honor men who have been designated for department medals than to reward them with a handshake, parade, eulogy and a small bar of gold with its bright silken ribbon. The idea was to take three of the medal men and give them the cherished promotion to which all policemen look forward without putting them through the tedious process of the civil service examination. It was argued that all policemen who do daring deeds are not necessarily apt at passing examinations and that the qualities required to win these three medals deserved special recognition.

Up in Albany a few weeks ago Senator Lockwood of Kings, a Republican, introduced and had passed a bill which provided for promotion of any officer or member of the police force who received the Peter F. Meyer, the Isaac Bell or the Rhinelander medal. Senator Lockwood said in advocating the passage of the bill:

"The men who win medals are usually representative of the highest type and well deserving of promotion. It will bring out the best that is in the department if it is once understood that advancement can be secured for courageous conduct. In other words, the case is that of a brave man versus red tape. The obstacle of course is the civil service examinations." But the promotions will not be made

this year as the bill was vetoed.

This year when the bluecoats parade up Fifth avenue—the event is scheduled for Saturday, May 11—there will be six new policemen to be decorated and inducted into the Honor Legion of the department. The men to get the chief medals are Patrolman Edward H. Machel, who will receive the Rhinelander medal; Sergeant Joseph T. Weckesser, the Isaac Bell; Patrolman Charles C. Steinert, the Peter F. Meyer.

The brief official account of the meritorious conduct of the men is colorless and lacking in detail. To Patrolman Machel, who is still young, the merit board awarded the Rhinelander medal because early in the morning of last July 22 at 510 Morgan avenue, Brooklyn, Machel plunged into the darkness of a hallway after a man with a revolver. His quarry was Stanislaus Dombrowski, who fired three shots at him, one of which struck him in the forehead over the left eye. With the sight of one eye practically gone and blood streaming down his face, Machel overpowered and captured his man. The cries of Dombrowski, who was subsequently tried for felonious assault, brought other foreigners to the scene who proceeded to beat the policeman. But Machel finally landed Dombrowski at the station house.

Sergeant Weckesser, who is in the Marine division, will receive the Isaac Bell

medal for an aquatic rescue. He was on duty at division headquarters at the Battery last April 23 when he heard cries for help. He ran out of the office and across the plaza in front of Pier A to a runway which leads to a float in the basin used for docking small launches and rowboats. He saw a man struggling in the water, and, discarding his blouse he dived. As he reached the man the latter seemed nearly exhausted. Weckesser grasped him under the arms and struck out for the float.

Within ten feet of it the man began to struggle and kicked his rescuer in the stomach, knocking the breath out of him, but the Sergeant kept his hold and with his free hand seized a life buoy which was thrown to him. Both were dragged to the landing just as Weckesser became unconscious.

To Motorcycle Patrolman Steinert the third of the coveted medals is awarded for stopping a runaway team at the risk of his life July 9. He received serious injuries to the head and back.

The remaining three medals to count for credit points in examinations for promotion, and which allow the recipients to wear a silver star on the cuff of the uniform jacket, were bestowed on patrolmen. The Automobile Club of America medal was given to Henry Mauderer, and the department version of his capture of a criminal follows:

While pursuing Joseph Polina at 5:45 P. M., October 7, 1917, who had been engaged in a shooting affair on Second avenue near 103d street, Mauderer called upon Polina to halt, at the same time firing one shot in the air. The man pursued then turned around and fired a shot from a revolver at the patrolman and then Mauderer fired directly at his assailant, the bullet striking him in the left shoulder and entering his lung. Polina died in the Harlem Hospital as a result of the pistol shot wound. The act of Patrolman Mauderer involved personal risk of life in the intelligent performance of police duty.

For rescuing a man who had jumped off a ferryboat Patrolman Charles A. McNally, who was a probationary at the time, is awarded the department Medal of Honor.

The sixth is Patrolman Patrick Feeley, given the Brooklyn citizens' medal. The official version states that:

With the assistance of Patrolman William J. McCormack, Patrolman Feeley arrested Angelo Pisano October 29, 1917, in the storage yard of the Grenshaw Engineering Company, Pitkin and Williams avenues, Brooklyn, on the charge of assaulting a boy 8 years of age by striking him on the head with a piece of iron. In resisting arrest Pisano took refuge in a shanty upon the said premises, from which he discharged three shots from a revolver directly at the officers, one of which passed through the left breast of Patrolman Feeley, inflicting a dangerous wound. Patrolman Feeley then drew his revolver and discharged four shots at Pisano. Both were removed by ambulance to Kings County Hospital.

Famous Men Among Guests at Old Stevens House

THE South has a special place in its heart for the old Stevens House, which after having stood for 114 years at the northwest corner of Bowling Green will have to give way within the year to a skyscraper to be built by the Cunard Steamship Company. Years before the civil war Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and J. E. B. Stuart, then young officers in the United States army, were regular visitors at the hotel.

Lee and Jackson were lieutenants stationed at Fort Hamilton, where their names may still be seen on casemate walls. Lee especially was a frequent visitor. He went to the Stevens House to enjoy fencing bouts with Parke Wilson, a guest there.

Mr. Wilson is still living in a little town in southern New Mexico. He is nearly 90. For many years he has made it a point to come annually to New York to look at the Stevens House. Usually he has stopped there, but last year he went uptown because of the noise of subway construction under the building. He has many reminiscences of Lee and Jackson.

"They were Southerners, but loyal as any man could be," he said when he was last in this city. "When the civil war broke out I was surprised when Lee and Jackson left the United States army to join the Confederacy. I have maintained and do still that it was only because of family ties that they went with the South."

"I recall very distinctly an affair which happened one evening at the Stevens House which confirms what I said. It was a summer's evening and many were sitting outdoors. Some one, knowing Jackson was a Southerner, began to talk disparagingly about negroes, apparently expecting Jackson would approve of this line of talk."

"But he did not. In fact he got indignant and told the man he did not know the negroes or the South or he would not have spoken as he did. 'The negro, let me say, sir,' whipping the 'sir' out with a snap which indicated the feeling of the officer, 'that the negro is a human being and will be freed of his yoke, as you call it.'"

"Ordinarily Jackson was a mild young man. His reserve was marked. His whole demeanor was indicative of the

latent power which later made him one of the great military men of his time.

"Lee and I were closer friends because of our fondness for fencing. Lee was a great swordsman. He told me that he was one of the best in his class at West Point. I guess I was the first man who mastered the future military genius of the South. At least he told me so, and it was not without a little surprise."

"I had learned the art from a Frenchman, who was one of the best fencers in his own country. He spent considerable time on my father's place on the Hudson and took a great shine to me, teaching me the game of the sword as he called his art."

"But those matches with Lee in the old Stevens House. I tell you it makes me young again even to think of those times. A corner room on the second floor was where we used to get at each other. At first we had another room, but the prancing about of Lee and myself distracted the diners below, so the proprietor gave us the corner room, explaining that it had a stronger floor than the first room."

"Only twice in many bouts did Lee beat me. His strength was remarkable. He

had a wrist like iron and to disarm him, which is a trick fencers often like to perform, was almost impossible. I never engaged a man who pressed me more doggedly. He was on his toes every minute and an opening would not miss the flashing eye of the Southern leader."

"In the assault he was a demon. It was the skill of the old French master who taught me that checked him when he started. Several tricks I had been taught to use when hard pressed vexed him. I have never met a man but Lieut. Lee who solved them. His keenness was something to be reckoned with and very often I was forced to confuse my attack to prevent him learning my tricks."

"I met Jenny Lind at the Stevens House and also Andrew Jackson, Daniel Webster, Gen. John C. Fremont and many others nationally prominent before the coming of the civil war. But none of these people was half as interesting to me as the two Southern officers who were later to lead legions against the Union. They were rebels, but noble ones, leaders of men and, I am sure, carried their warfare on a different plan from that of the Germans in Europe."